

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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MARAD FOR S. WHEATLEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, IMCO

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SATELLITE CONFERENCE

APRIL 23 - MAY 9, 1975

REF: (A) LONDON 1347; (B) MOSCOW 2435

1. MELLON, FCO, THE BRITISH OFFICIAL WHO WILL HEAD UK DELEGATION TO SUBJECT CONFERENCE RECENTLY HAD FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO MAKE CONCERNING CONFERENCE:

(A) UK VERY ANXIOUS TO LEARN SOVIET REACTION TOWARD US POSITION AS DESCRIBED BY US TEAM DURING VISIT TO MOSCOW. MELLON SAID UNTIL SOVIET VIEWS KNOWN, WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR UK DEVELOP ITS OWN POSITION FOR CONFERENCE. IT WAS APPARENT FROM MELLON'S REMARKS THAT UK HAS BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH OTHER EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS THAT US TEAM VISITED AND HE SAID IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO HOLD FURTHER MEETING AMONG EUROPEANS TO REVIEW POSITIONS FOR CONFERENCE. FOLLOWING EUROPEAN MEETING, MELLON HOPES TO ORGANIZE VISIT BY EUROPEAN REPS TO WASHINGTON SHORTLY

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AFTER EASTER HOPEFULLY TO TRY TO DEVELOP JOINT US-

EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR CONFERENCE.

(B) MELLON SAID VISIT BY US TEAM TO EUROPEAN CAPITALS HAD BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED. HOWEVER, US EMPHASIS ON REOPENING ECONOMIC ANALYSIS PREVIOUSLY ACCOMPLISHED BY PANEL OF EXPERTS AROUSED EUROPEAN SUSPICIONS THAT US MAY BE PLANNING TO USE THIS AS TACTIC TO FURTHER DELAY COMMITMENT TO ESTABLISHMENT OF INMARSAT. MELLON ADVISED US TO SOFT-PEDAL THIS IDEA DURING CONFERENCE BUT HE APPEARED TO BE HINTING THAT SOME RE-EXAMINATION OF INMARSAT ECONOMICS MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN BY ONE OF THE INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS WHICH CONFERENCE WILL HAVE TO ESTABLISH.

(C) MELLON BELIEVES THAT SECOND AND PROBABLY A THIRD CONFERENCE WILL BE REQUIRED TO GIVE BIRTH TO INMARSAT ORGANIZATION. THE MOST THAT BRITISH EXPECT FROM FIRST CONFERENCE IS ACCEPTANCE BY GOVERNMENTS OF THE NEED FOR A MARITIME SATELLITE ORGANIZATION AND AGREEMENT ON THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR THAT ORGANIZATION. IF FIRST MEETING CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS MUCH, MELLON SAYS BRITISH WILL PRESS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SEVERAL INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEES TO WORK OUT DETAILS FOR SECOND CONFERENCE, HOPEFULLY IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, WHICH WOULD AGREE ON TEXT THAT WOULD BE SIGNED BY GOVERNMENTS AT THIRD CONFERENCE SEVERAL MONTHS THEREAFTER.

(D) IT WAS APPARENT FROM MELLON'S REMARKS THAT UK THINKING NOT YET VERY CLEAR ON QUESTION OF WHEN OR PROCESS BY WHICH INMARSAT WOULD BE SEVERED FROM IMCO. IT APPEARED BRITISH EXPECT IMCO WILL ORGANIZE AND PROVIDE SECRETARIAT SUPPORT FOR SECOND AND THIRD CONFERENCES. ONLY COMMENT MELLON HAD ON POSSIBLE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR INMARSAT WAS TO SUGGEST THAT, IN FIRST CONFERENCE AT LEAST, US AND UK SHOULD SOFT PEDAL IDEA OF MARISAT/MAROTS AS AN INTERIM SYSTEM. MELLON SAID BRITISH WOULD LIKE TO HAVE INMARSAT ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERED IN LONDON BUT WOULD NOT INSIST UPON THIS.

2. NEW SUBJECT: WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH ATSEROV HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON (REF B). HE DOES NOT OBJECT TO IDEA OF TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DAYS OF TALKS ON INMARSAT AND, IF TIME PERMITS, HE WOULD LIKE TO CONSULT WITH MARAD AND POSSIBLY VISIT KINGS POINT. BUT HE DOES WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT HIS PRIMARY PURPOSE IN VISITING US IS TO WORK OUT INMARSAT ARRANGEMENTS AND HE WANTS TO SPEND WHATEVER TIME IS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THIS. IF IT TAKES MORE THAN TWO DAYS US IS PROPOSING, HE WOULD HOPE US WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO EXTENDING TALKS AS REQUIRED. ON ASSUMPTION THAT TWO DAYS WILL

SUFFICE FOR THE MEETING, MARAD REP HAS CONTACTED
ATSEROV AND ARRANGED MEETINGS WITH MARAD ON
MARCH 5 AND 6 SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OF
INMARSAT DISCUSSIONS.

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